DECLASSIFIED
Pol 14 Viets
XR Pol 15-7 Viets

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State (433) R

9 Action
55 Info

CONFIDENTIAL

VV MJA074JIA843
PP RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 4775 2420835
ZNY CCCCC
P R 300744Z
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3614
INFO RUEHC/CINCPAC
RUMNMF/CG III MAF
ZEN/AMCONSUL HUE 158
ZEN/AMCONGEN HONGKONG
STATE GRNC
BT

27606

1966 AUG 30 AM 5 2

Saigon 4775

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Igarb 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
13 AUTH. REASON(S)
RELEASE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4775

AUGUST 30

HONG KONG FOR GARD

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CG III MAF PASS ROUTINE 121 TO POLAD FRANCIS

L I M D I S

1. NORTHERN BUDDHIST REFUGEE WHO IS CLOSE TO THICH TAM CHAU AUGUST 30 TOLD EMBOFFS HE HAD SEEN THICH TAM CHAU AT VUNG TAU AUGUST 28 AND TRIED PERSUADE TAM CHAU MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT FAVORING ELECTIONS. SOURCE SAID HE TOLD TAM CHAU BUDDHIST INSTITUTE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE IN POSITION

PAGE TWO RUMJIR 4775 C O N F I D E N T I A L
OF HAVING SAME POLICY AS VIET CONG. TAM CHAU AGREED TO STATEMENT SUGESTED TO HIM FAVORING ANY KIND OF ELECTION, EVEN IMPERFECT ONE, BECAUSE ANY ELECTION WOULD GIVE PEOPLE EXPERIENCE AND ENABLE THEM TO DO BETTER NEXT TIME. HOWEVER, TAM CHAU LATER SENT WORD TO SOURCE THAT HE DOES NOT RPT NOT AUTHORIZE PUBLICATION THIS STATEMENT BECAUSE TIME NOT RIGHT.

(2)

2. TAM CHAU ADVISED SOURCE THAT HE WILL VOTE HIMSELF BUT IS NOT WILLING MAKE HIS INTENTION PUBLIC. ACCORDING SOURCE, TAM CHAU IS PRIVATELY ADVISING ALL COMERS TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS.

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3. ASKED WHY TAM CHAU CHANGED HIS MIND ON RELEASE OF STATEMENT, SOURCE SAID HE NOT SURE BUT SPECULATED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH REPORT THAT GVN ABOUT TO RELEASE CAN LAO POLITICAL PRISONERS. SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT TAM CHAU IS SUSPICIOUS OF GVN MOTIVES, FEARS THEY ARE MERELY FOLLOWING POLICY OF DIVIDE AND CONQUER WITH RESPECT BUDDHISTS.

4. COMMENT: (A) SOURCE HAS GIVEN US RELIABLE INFORMATION ON TAM CHAU IN PAST. TAM CHAU WAS NEVER WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN FAVOR OF BOYCOTTING ELECTIONS AND IT IS LIKELY HE NOW GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT APPEARING TO SIDE WITH VIET CONG. HE MAY BE SEARCHING FOR SOME WAY TO DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM BOYCOTT BUT AT SAME TIME CONCERNED ABOUT FURTHER STRAINING HIS RELATIONS WITH INSTITUTE MILITANTS. (B) WE HAVE BEEN URGING GVN TO WORK ON TAM CHAU IN EFFORT BREAKDOWN INSTITUTE BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN. BUI DIEM HAS AGREED TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THIS. WE ARE ALSO SENDING EMBASSY OFFICER FOR INFORMAL TALK WITH TAM CHAU WHO REMAINS AT VUNG TAU. IN ADDITION, IN OUR RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH BUDDHIST MODERATES WE HAVE ENCOURAGED BETTER ATTITUDE TOWARD ELECTIONS, BUT HAVE SO FAR ONLY HAD INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS. LODGE.

NOTE:

ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 5:40 A.M. AUGUST 30, 1966

PASSED WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA, 8/30/66 - 5:40 A.M.

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